

Letter from Gardiner Greene Hubbard to Alexander Graham Bell, February 22, 1877, with transcript

L. G.G.H. to A.G.B. 1877 Feb. 22 Washington, 711-14th St. Telephone negotiating with Gov. Howard

I received from Mabel yesterday a copy of Gov. Howard's letter to you, dated the 16th inst. I wrote him a long letter in reply, addressed simply, Gov. Howard, Providence, and will be much obliged if you will ascertain if he received the letter.

I wrote to him that I thought a company could be organized substantially on the basis of his letter, that would be of great importance and accomplish as much for the public as the telegraph itself. I recommended enumerated some of the principal purposes for which it would be used. The domestic purpose, as illustrated by the great variety of applications that we had already received; for telegraphic purposes, that it would transmit much faster than the Morse instruments, as an operator can only transmit 15 to 20 words a minute by that, while he can articulate from 150 to 200. That it would be used extensively in the transmission of newspaper reports; that it would entirely supercede the necessity of the A.B.C. machine; that it would be not only more convenient for all these purposes, but also very much cheaper. I enclosed him Mr. Ponton's last letter to me and requested him to return it.

There must be no delay in the decision of Gov. Howard, for if he does not act with us, then we must form a company independently of him, but I very much prefer to have him associated with us. Mr. Pollok was here this morning, but I had scarcely a moment to give him. Let us hear as often as you can find time to write. We are all very well.